

Message Text

SECRET

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63

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 071211Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7981

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 06883

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR IR MU

SUBJ: SULTAN QABUS' VISIT TO TEHRAN

1. DURING AUDIENCE JULY 6, SHAH TOLD ME THAT SULTAN QABUS HAD HAD GOOD VISIT TO TEHRAN. THERE HAD BEEN AMPLE DISCUSSION OF OMAN'S RELATIONS WITH ITS PENINSULAR NEIGHBORS AND SULTAN AND SHAH HAD AGREED ON TRENDS IN REGIONAL POLITICS. BOTH RULERS WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SAUDI EFFORTS TO WEAN PDRY AWAY FROM DEPENDENCY ON COMMUNIST REGIMES. SHAH AND QABUS SHARED PERCEPTION THAT SOMALIA WAS DRIFTING GRADUALLY FURTHER LEFTWARD AND THAT SAME TENDENCY WAS NOTED IN ETHIOPIA.

2. QABUS EXPRESSED A LACK OF ENTHUSIASM ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SAUDIS. HE TOLD SHAH THAT HE WAS MUCH MORE APPRECIATIVE OF ASSISTANCE RENDERED HIM BY SHAIKH ZAYID. SULTAN ALSO EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO MAKE GENUINE EFFORT TO DIMINSH HIS DEPENDENCY ON THE BRITISH. HE BELIEVED THAT AN INCREASE IN OMANI INCOME FROM OIL WAS POSSIBLE WHICH WOULD DECREASE HIS NEED FOR BRITISH SUPPORT AND ENABLE HIM TO PURSUE MORE

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INDEPENDENT POLICIES.

3. ON BILATERAL MATTERS, SHAH SAID SULTAN HAD ASKED HIM TO MAINTAIN IRANIAN FORCES IN DHOFAR. AS FURTHER REFLECTION OF SULTAN'S SKEPTICISM RE SAUDI'S ABILITY TO CHANGE NATURE OF ADVEN REGIME AND THUS TO REMOVE THREAT TO OMAN FROM THAT QUARTER, QABUS OFFERED SHAH USE OF MASIRAH FACILITY FOR IRANIAN P-3S AND OTHER AIRCRAFT AS DESIRED. SHAH COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD ASK HIS MILITARY STAFF TO STUDY IRANIAN REQUIREMENTS BEFORE REPLYING TO SULTAN'S OFFER. HE MADE POINT OF TELLING QABUS THAT IRANIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WERE ALREADY OVERSTRETCHED WITH TASKS AT HAND AND WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST WITH OPERATION OF MASIRAH FACILITY.
EHLMS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN06883
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760262-0626
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760782/aaaacuah.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SULTAN QABUS' VISIT TO TEHRAN
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, MU, IR, XF, (QABOOS, SULTAN), (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMED REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006